

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) A method for diagnosing and repairing network devices on a network, wherein the method is performed by a network management system located on a client computer, comprising:

communicating with and managing a plurality of network devices, each of the network devices having at least one application located therein;

the network management system maintaining and updating a plurality of queries that communicate with the applications associated with the one or more network devices;

the network management system selecting one or more of the plurality of queries to be performed on one or more of the network devices;

the network management system automatically, without user intervention, detecting modifications to the network and automatically, without user intervention, modifying the selected queries to match the modifications to the network;

the network management system performing the selected queries on one or more of the network devices;

the network management system receiving and aggregating responses to the selected queries, wherein the responses are received from the plurality of applications on the network devices;

the network management system receiving responses to the selected queries and automatically evaluating the responses to formulate corrective actions, wherein the corrective actions cause automatically repairing failures of one or more of the network devices.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the selected queries reflect a plurality of potential scenarios within the network, wherein said network scenarios further comprise at least one of a sequence of tests to be performed; data aggregation results; communication test results; network errors; possible causes of network errors; suggested repair actions, and results of repairs that have been performed.

41. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein each of the selected queries corresponds to at least one of the plurality of scenarios.

42. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 41, further comprising issuing the selected queries to the applications in an automatically established sequence.

43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the applications comprise command parsers, utility programs, and device agents.

44. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, further comprising a user interface, located within and working in conjunction with the network management system, displaying information related to network scenarios.

45. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 44, further comprising the user interface having an option to customize the selected queries, the plurality of the scenarios, and the corrective actions.

46. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the step of aggregating responses further comprises filtering the responses to the selected queries according to a predetermined template of a plurality of templates; organizing the responses to the selected queries in a format that conforms to a format of the specific predetermined template.

47. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 43, further comprising generating the predetermined template according to one or more of an operator's specifications, patterns of past retrieved data, or configurations of the network.

48. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 39, wherein the step of aggregating responses further comprises retrieving specific types of data from distinct applications of differing network devices.

49. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein detecting modifications to the network is not done automatically, but is performed at the user's request through the user interface.

50. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein modifying the selected queries to match the modifications to the network is performed at a user's request through the user interface.

51. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein evaluating the responses to formulate corrective actions is performed at a user's request through the user interface.

52. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein repairing failures is performed at a user's request through the user interface.

53. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 39, wherein automatically repairing failures comprises resetting one or more of the network devices.

54. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 39, wherein automatically repairing failures comprises restarting one or more of the network devices.

55. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 39, wherein automatically repairing failures comprises performing a configuration command or operation on one or more of the network devices.

56. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 39, wherein automatically repairing failures comprises executing a script on one or more of the network devices.

57. (Previously presented) A computer-readable volatile or non-volatile storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions for managing a plurality of network devices on a network, which instructions, when executed by one or more processors of a network management system located on a client computer, cause:

communicating with and managing a plurality of network devices, each network device having at least one application located therein;

the network management system maintaining and updating a plurality of selected queries, wherein the selected queries communicate with the applications associated with the one or more network devices;

the network management system selecting one or more of the plurality of selected queries to be performed on one or more of the network devices;

the network management system automatically, without user intervention, detecting modifications to the network and automatically, without user intervention, modifying the selected queries to match the modifications;

the network management system performing the selected queries on one or more of the network devices;

the network management system receiving and aggregating responses to the selected queries, wherein the responses are received from the plurality of applications on the network devices;

the network management system receiving responses to the selected queries and automatically evaluating the responses to formulate corrective actions, wherein the corrective actions automatically repairing failures of one or more of the network devices.

58. (Previously presented) An apparatus for managing a plurality of network devices on a network, comprising:

one or more processors;

means for communicating with and managing a plurality of network devices, each network device having at least one application located therein;

means for maintaining and updating a plurality of queries, wherein the queries communicate with the applications associated with the one or more network devices;

means for selecting one or more of the plurality of queries to be performed on one or more of the network devices;

means for automatically, without user intervention, detecting modifications to the network and automatically, without user intervention, modifying the selected queries to match the modifications;

means for performing the selected queries on one or more of the network devices;

means for receiving and aggregating responses to the selected queries, wherein the responses are received from the plurality of applications on the network devices; means for receiving responses to the selected queries and automatically evaluating the responses to formulate corrective actions, wherein the corrective actions cause automatically repairing failures of one or more of the network devices.

59. (New) The computer-readable volatile or non-volatile storage medium of Claim 57, wherein the selected queries reflect a plurality of potential scenarios within the network, wherein said network scenarios further comprise at least one of a sequence of tests to be performed; data aggregation results; communication test results; network errors; possible causes of network errors; suggested repair actions, and results of repairs that have been performed.

60. (New) The computer-readable volatile or non-volatile storage medium of Claim 57, wherein the applications comprise command parsers, utility programs, and device agents.

61. (New) The computer-readable volatile or non-volatile storage medium of Claim 57, wherein the instructions which cause aggregating responses further comprise instructions which cause filtering the responses to the selected queries according to a predetermined template of a plurality of templates; organizing the responses to the selected queries in a format that conforms to a format of the specific predetermined template.

62. (New) The computer-readable volatile or non-volatile storage medium of Claim 57, wherein the instructions which cause aggregating responses further comprise instructions which cause retrieving specific types of data from distinct applications of differing network devices.

63. (New) The computer-readable volatile or non-volatile storage medium of Claim 57, wherein the instructions which cause automatically repairing failures comprise instructions which cause performing a configuration command or operation on one or more of the network devices.

64. (New) The apparatus of Claim 58, wherein the selected queries reflect a plurality of potential scenarios within the network, wherein said network scenarios further comprise at least one of a sequence of tests to be performed; data aggregation results; communication test results;

network errors; possible causes of network errors; suggested repair actions, and results of repairs that have been performed.

65. (New) The apparatus of Claim 58, wherein the applications comprise command parsers, utility programs, and device agents.

66. (New) The apparatus of Claim 58, wherein the means for aggregating responses further comprises means for filtering the responses to the selected queries according to a predetermined template of a plurality of templates; means for organizing the responses to the selected queries in a format that conforms to a format of the specific predetermined template.

67. (Previously presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 58, wherein the means for aggregating responses further comprises means for retrieving specific types of data from distinct applications of differing network devices.

68. (Previously presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 58, wherein the means for automatically repairing failures comprises means for performing a configuration command or operation on one or more of the network devices.